

## Current International Students in the Simmons MBA Program

### **Preetha Mahadevan, SOM Class of '06**

Preetha came to the US in 2000 after her marriage, with a Master's from IIT – Chennai in architecture and several years of work experience. She volunteered in the US with some architecture projects in India, assisting an ethnic products retail showroom in Boston, and helping a Harvard faculty on one research project. She heard about Simmons from a participant in the SOM Annual Women Leadership Conference. Preetha remarks, "I immediately decided to apply to SOM influenced by its focus and reputation in women leadership." "That SOM offers an accelerated one year program was another major plus for me," she added, "...not to forget SOM's location in the cosmopolitan city of Boston."

In 2005, Preetha, 35 years, received a 100% tuition scholarship from SOM for the 1-year accelerated MBA program, on an F-1 student visa. Preetha says, "In my life, I had experienced difficulties in working with women. Simmons' all-women program gave me a unique opportunity to learn how to positively interact with women." Simmons taught me "to be successful with women at work, she must be prepared to have a give and take mindset."

Preetha is proud to be a "Simmons woman". Simmons offers "an exceptionally good program, with an extremely good value for education." Students are "unusually competent." The classroom discussions are "stimulating and challenging" because of their rich and diverse experiences. And, "faculty is comparable to those in the other reputed business schools." Preetha aspires to secure a leadership career in the US. Her concluding message, "No other place can be better than Simmons for an eye-opening experience of women potential."

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### **Prachi Gupta, SOM Class of '06**

Prachi, 23 years, came to the US directly from India in August 2005 on an F-1 visa. Prachi has Bachelor's in business, and a one year diploma in software technology. Prachi hails from a very conservative business family. Her parents wanted her to get married after her diploma. Prachi learnt about Simmons. "My parents felt very secure that Simmons is an all-women business school."

The real sweetener was a \$10,000 merit scholarship offer from Simmons. Prachi says, "My father was very proud, and showed the scholarship letter around to all acquaintances, friends and relatives." "Though he had been reluctant to let me join a traditional 2-year MBA program, his concerns went away because Simmons offers the same level of rigorous education and training within an intensive one year format," she continued. Her family was happy to find that she is going to a best college in the US. Prachi is the first girl in her extended family to study abroad.

Prachi likes the small size of the SOM program, and the individual one-to-one attention that the faculty and staff give to each and every student. "SOM program is designed to help students learn how to apply theoretical concepts in practice." She aspires to be an entrepreneur, and has joined the entrepreneurship certificate program at SOM. She plans to apply for a Ph.D. program in entrepreneurship next year, after getting U.S. field experience with a successful women entrepreneur.

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### **Suchandra Ghose**

Suchandra Ghose, age 25, hails from a small town in the State of Jharkhand – one of the most underdeveloped regions of India. She came to the US straight after her schooling in India, for an undergraduate program in biology at a small university in Pennsylvania. She worked in Citizen's bank after graduating. She wanted to be in the Northeast part of the USA, so she applied to several universities in the Boston area. Though she received admission offer from another university also, she decided to join Simmons because that is the only women's business school in the US and has a highly personalized approach.

Suchandra says "I have had a very good experience at SOM." She feels that the faculty at SOM is outstanding – "they are all from very prestigious schools", and has been particularly influenced by the operations management course she took with Professor Paul Myers and the marketing course with Professor Deb Marlino and Fiona Wilson. Her favorite is Mary Finlay's IT management class.

Suchandra has been very busy at SOM, and is working at the registrar's office on the main campus. She is also working as a Research Assistant on a project involving case studies of Indian companies. She is planning to do an internship in the summer that she has located through her active networking. She aspires to be a project manager in a large corporation after her MBA.